

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

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AMEMBASSY KAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, KU

SUBJECT; VISIT OF PALESTINIAN LEADERS TO KUWAIT

SUMMARY: PLO DELEGATION VISITED KUWAIT ON JANUARY 14 TO MEET WITH COK AND LOCAL PALESTINIAN OFFICIALS FOLLOWING RECENTLY CONCLUDED QUADRIpartite MEETING IN CAIRO. SUMMARY OF VISIT AND PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY PLO "FOREIGN MINISTER" FARUQ AL-QADDUMI CONTAINED IN FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS. END SUMMARY.

1. A DELEGATION OF PLO LEADERS ARRIVED IN KUWAIT ON 14 JANUARY TO MEET WITH VARIOUS GOK AND PALESTINIAN OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED QUADRIpartite MEETING IN CAIRO. THE DELEGATION ALSO WANTED TO REVIEW KUWAIT'S FINANCIAL PLEDGE TO THE PLO MADE AT THE RABAT SUMMIT. THE DELEGATION INCLUDED PLO "FOREIGN MINISTER" FARUQ AL-QADDUMI (ABU LUTF), MAHMUD ABBAS (ABU MAZIN) AND PALESTINIAN NATIONAL FUND DIRECTOR, DR. WALID UNCLASSIFIED

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QAMHAWI. DURING ITS STAY THE DELEGATION MET WITH GOK FOREIGN

MINISTER SHAYKH SABAH AL-AHMAD AL-SABAH, HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE, AND GAVE A WELL-ATTENDED LECTURE AT KUWAIT UNIVERSITY.

2. QADDUMI DID MOST TALKING AND THERE WAS LITTLE NEW IN HIS REMARKS. HEADLINES IN LOCAL PRESS STATED THAT PLO HAD REJECTED GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE, BUT QADDUMI ACTUALLY SAID A FINAL DECISION ON PLO PARTICIPATION WOULD NOT BE TAKEN UNTIL AN INVITATION WAS RECEIVED. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT A PALESTINIAN GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE WOULD NOT BE FORMED "UNTIL THE APPROPRIATE TIME."

3. QADDUMI ALSO SAID THAT THE PLO HAD NO CONFIDENCE IN JORDAN. THIS LACK OF CONFIDENCE SUSTAINED AT THE RECENT QUADRIPARTITE CONFERENCE IN WHICH JORDAN REJECTED PLO APPEALS FOR THE REIN-STATEMENT OF A PLO PRESENCE IN JORDAN. HE ALSO SAID THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER'S PLAN TO DIVIDE THE ARABS BY HIS STEP-BY-STEP POLICY HAD FAILED.

4. QADDUMI STRESSED THE NEED FOR STRENGTHENING ARAB UNITY AS THIS WAS THE ONLY DEFENSE AGAINST THE US-ISRAELI PLAN IN THE MIDDLE EAST. QADDUMI DENOUNCED TERRORISM AND CALLED ON THE "REJECTIONISTS" TO JOIN FORCES WITH THE PALESTINIANS FIGHTING IN ISRAEL. HE STATED THE PLO HAS LISTENED TO THE WORDS OF ALL PARTIES AND, IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, IT IS ONLY THROUGH ARMED STRUGGLE THAT THE PALESTINIANS WILL REGAIN THEIR LAND. THE PLO DRAWS ITS POLICY FROM ARAFAT'S WORD THAT HE CARRIES A GUN IN ONE HAND AND AN OLIVE BRANCH IN THE OTHER, BUT NO ONE PAYS ANY ATTENTION TO THE OLIVE BRANCH. IN REPLY TO A QUESTION ABOUT THE POSITION OF PALESTINIANS HAVING JORDANIAN NATIONALITY QADDUMI SAID HE CARRIES THE PASSPORTS OF 14 ARAB STATES, BUT HE DOES NOT FEEL ANY LESS A PALESTINIAN. QADDUMI SINGLED OUT FRANCE AND THE SOVIET UNION AS STATES THAT HAVE AIDED THE PALESTINIANS IN THEIR DIFFICULT DAYS.

5. COMMENT: THE LARGE AND INFLUENTIAL PALESTINIAN COMMUNITY IN KUWAIT WAS LEFT WITH THE FEELING THAT IMPATIENCE AND FRUSTRATION ARE CREEPING BACK IN AFTER A SERIES OF PALESTINIAN "VICTORIES". SACRIFICE AND STRUGGLE WERE THE KEY WORDS IN QADDUMI'S MESSAGE. THE IDEA THAT PALESTINIANS MIGHT ONCE AGAIN BE LEFT OUT OF THE SETTLEMENT PROCESS WAS ALSO CLEAR FROM HIS EMPHASIS ON UNITY.

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MUCH OF WHAT QADDUMI SAID WAS RHETORIC, BUT IT WAS EVIDENT THAT THE FLUSH OF VICTORY IS FADING.

STOLTZFUS

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